

Peralta Retirees Organization

Meeting Minutes: March 3, 2021

Present: Debby Weintraub (President), Jerry Herman, Bruce Jacobs (Vice President), Alex Pappas, Ann Elliot, Judy Cohen

Agenda item	Discussion	Follow up action
	Call to order 1:10 pm	
Approval of Minutes	Minutes approved with one spelling adjustment	
Treasurer Report	Balance: \$12,090.61. Renewals arrived after email sent. Liability insurance \$1100-1200 to cover events in case of accident.	Bruce will continue contacting those with no email.
Scholarship	No one is tracking scholarship donation (Bruce thinks there is about \$1000-\$1200 in fund). Jerry did receive email from foundation (Ricki) that his check will be a PRO Scholarship donation. Instructions in Newsletter how to make donation (send check made out to Scholarship Foundation/PRO). Bruce will forward to Foundation; link on Foundation page. Currently, there is not enough in account to cover \$750/per student winner. Let donors know donations are tax deductible. Download announcement from PRO website. Email members to donate. Go to PRO homepage. Foundation has poor record for keeping track of money. Will need readers for scholarship essays. Jerry, Bruce in reserve; Judy will be standby.	Bruce can calculate money sent to foundation to compare, email to foundation to get agreement on scholarship funds. Debbie will call Ricki for an accounting. Judy will request donations to scholarship fund on Facebook Group. Debbie will talk to Ricki about most efficient method to get donations specifically for PRO. Debbie will reach out to past readers. Jerry will call Michael Mills about reading.
Vice President	Mailbox moved; very easy and safe. No problem with vaccines being covered by insurance. Medicare covers costs.	
President Report	Issue about retirees on Peralta.edu. Some want to be retained on the EDU email. Not much contact with district in the last 6 months. State takeover vote pushed to June. Takeover concerns connected to accreditation financial issues. Former Chancellor Stroud has strong connection to Sacramento. As of now there is not much that can be done. SEIU seems to be supporting takeover. Unions not aligned. No social activities scheduled yet. Ann suggestion using "HouseParty" for get together (using avatars instead of Zoom panes) . Possibility for outdoor picnic gathering by August.	PFT will request retirees be retained on EDU for one year. Debbie will ask Jennifer to address takeover issue in next Newsletter (also ask SEIU to address issue) Ann and Judy will research House Party.
Newsletter	Scholarships; State takeover (different points of view); Bruce sent NY	Ask for Newsletter contributions on facebook and put in

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	<p>Times article to Ann and Debbie about understanding vaccines; depends on personal level of acceptance; experts like Fauci are cautious; Important to understand advice. Ann will take points of view from article and feature in text boxes; get point of view from those reluctant to vaccination (do not assume everyone comfortable getting vaccinated); Why are people resistant to vaccine during this pandemic? Some segments of community are very resistant to treatments. Debbie expressed trust in current science/medical advise, but also understands why some communities have serious concerns about medical community/vaccines. Bruce considers not taking vaccine a danger; prolonging danger of infection (suggested writing a column of Covid facts with information based on science). Alex suggested publishing numbers; acknowledge those who object to vaccine. Many PRO members appreciate the benefits but do not want to be involved or support a political discussion. Ann asked about a Survey Monkey. Mention of new Shingles vaccine (SHINGRIX)</p> <p>More Newsletter suggestions: Favorite books; What retirement means to me?; Entertainment recommendations. 2 New Trustees; one sent article to Debbie about hiring diversity in community colleges. Note February was a month of great loss.</p>	<p>Newsletter. Bruce will look for photographs. Debbie thinking of writing about how being vaccinated has changed her life. Judy will ask FB group for books and TV recommendations. Invite new Trustee Kevin Jenkins to next PRO Zoom. Bruce will look at mathematical analysis of COVID and vaccine statistics.</p>
Retirement Board	<p>2 Trusts: Pre 2004 hires with lifetime benefits; Bridge/post 2004 hires District is responsible for until age 65 (Medicare eligible). Amount in trust is \$228 million-looks secure. Bad news if district goes bankrupt; bond holders can take from this fund. Everything looks healthy now; dependent coverage is included. If still active at age 65, District benefits apply first over Medicare. Peralta is hold harmless-no layoffs.</p>	<p>Debbie will ask Jennifer about resolution. Jerry will write article about Trust fund. Find out if District is financially stable. (per Withrow benefits are stable)</p>
	<p>Note: Alex Pappas will be flying to Turkey to join his wife after 13 month pandemic separation. Will not attend next meeting.</p>	
	<p>Recommendations from Jerry: James McBride; Last Tango in Halifax Debbie: Tucci, Searching for Italy Bruce: A Swim in the Pond in the Rain.</p>	
Next Meeting	<p>(Judy/Ann signed off) Next: June 16, 2021 via Zoom</p>	

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Cohen